

## For Immediate Release

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## County Executive Abele Asks Federal Government to Reject Gov. Walker Plan to Cap Family Care Cap Would Limit Needed Home Care for Frail Elderly, Disabled

**MILWAUKEE** – Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele said Monday that he was urging U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to reject Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's plan to cap enrollment in the state's Family Care program.

In a <u>letter</u> to Sebelius, Abele said that the proposed cap would keep 2,000 younger disabled Milwaukee County residents on a waiting list and result in another 400 to 500 older adults being added monthly to waiting lists for needed care.

"While I respect and share Gov. Walker's concern for taxpayer dollars, with the proposed caps in place, people who need assistance will be left with no choice but to enter a nursing home, which will be less effective for them and more expensive for taxpayers," Abele said in the letter. "Taxpayers and those in need are better served when Family Care can offer less-expensive and more effective options than nursing homes."

If the cap is approved, "residents seeking important services from Family Care will get a spot on a wait list instead of the help they need," Abele wrote.

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